

Meeting Minutes

Organizational Meeting of the Town of East Longmeadow Charter Commission

Thursday April 30, 2015- 6:30 PM

Town Clerk Thomas Florence welcomed the newly elected Charter Commission members and the attendance roll was taken. Those in attendance were: Thomas O'Conner, Ray Miller, Dawn Starks, Larry Levine, Eric Madison, Russell Denver, George Kingston, Ralph Page and Bill Fonseca.

Action Items:

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Dawn Starks as Chair. It was voted unanimously.

- A motion was made and seconded to nominate Larry Levine as Vice Chair. It was voted unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to nominate Russell Denver as Recording Secretary. It was voted unanimously.
- It was voted unanimously to hold the initial public hearing of the Charter Commission on Wednesday May 27, 2015 at 7 PM at the Media Room in the Council of Aging building.
- The Commission agreed to meet every two weeks commencing on May 14, 2015 and agreed that the timeline to complete the work of the Commission would be approximately February 1, 2016 so that the Commission's recommendations could be voted on by the voters at the April 2016 Town election.
- The Commission agreed to use the Town of East Longmeadow email system as the way for notices of meetings and transmittal of other Commission business.

Other Discussion:

The Commission discussed the need for administrative assistance, specifically taking and then recording minutes of the Commission meetings, so that the Recording Secretary may actively participate in the meetings. Mr. Florence indicated that he will seek that assistance through Town Hall. The Commission spent a short period of time discussing how the Charter Commission of 10 years ago used outside resources and the costs of the outside resources and what might be the opinion of this Commission on outside resources. No decision was made on this issue. Each Commission member gave their thoughts about the type of information they would like to have to assist in the Commissions deliberations. These included: types of Charters similar sized communities have, open space and commercial property building availability in Town and what metrics that could be used to determine success of a Charter change. The Commission all agreed that it was imperative to meet with the current Town Administrator prior to his last day scheduled for May 22, 2015.

Documents distributed:

Mr. Florence distributed information on the Charter change timeline, the last Charter Commission's report, and information about types of charters in Massachusetts.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Russell Denver